

IN THE CLAIMS:

Please amend claim 1 as follows:

1. (ONCE AMENDED) Recombinant screening, cloning and/or expression vector that replicates in mycobacteria and that contains:
- 1) a replicon, which is functional in mycobacteria;
 - 2) a selectable marker;
 - 3) a reporter cassette comprising:
 - a) a multiple cloning site (polylinker),
 - b) optionally a transcription terminator, which is active in mycobacteria, upstream of the polylinker,
 - c) a coding nucleotide sequence, which is derived from a gene encoding a protein expression, export and/or secretion marker, said nucleotide sequence lacking its initiation codon and its regulatory sequences, and
 - d) a coding nucleotide sequence derived from a gene encoding a marker for the activity of promoters, which are contained in the same fragment, said nucleotide sequence having its initiation codon.

REMARKS REGARDING AMENDMENT

Applicants submit this Amendment along with a Response to the Restriction and Election of Species Requirements set forth in the Office Action dated March 26, 2003.

With this Amendment, the specification and claim 1 are amended.

The amendment is made to correct an error in the original translation. In the original English translation of the French language application, the French wording,

FINNEGAN
HENDERSON
FARABOW
GARRETT &
DUNNER LLP

1300 I Street, NW
Washington, DC 20005
202.408.4000
Fax 202.408.4400
www.finnegan.com